

The 3rd Sunday after Easter ~ Sunday, May 1, 2022

“Come Alive: Grasping Hold of Freedom”

Romans 7:14-25

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection...” (Philippians 3:10)

Many of the freedoms we seek today are seen as an _____ in themselves—a final _____ to be attained. It’s as though we think that once a particular freedom is achieved, all our other problems will be _____.

True freedom is only achieved when we’re changed from the _____.

“So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.” (Galatians 5:1)

Freedom isn’t about _____ or anything we do—it’s all about _____ and what He’s already done.

If Jesus has set us free, why is it so easy for us to get tied up in slavery again?

Why do I do the things I don’t want to do?

THE PROBLEM

“I don’t understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. But I can’t help myself because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things. I know I am rotten so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can’t make myself do right. I want to, but I can’t.” (Romans 7:15-18)

There is a _____ going on inside of us—a battle between _____ and _____; right and wrong; _____ and _____.

“The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

We are most aware of this battle when we try to _____ a bad habit

Good intentions aren’t _____ enough—it takes a lot more than just _____ to change.

Sentiments like these may be heart-felt at the time, but they often lack the

_____ to have any lasting effect on our lives.

The desire to do something is often _____ than the desire **not** to do something—especially during times of _____ or when we’re feeling weak or out of _____.

3 CONSEQUENCES OF THE INNER BATTLE

• _____
“I don’t understand myself.” (Romans 7:15)

• _____
“I have the desire to do good, but not the power.” (Romans 7:18)

We are always looking for the latest tip, hot idea, therapy, or fad that will instantly _____ us. We’re constantly looking for the _____.

However, the problem with the self-help books; motivational speakers; and so called “life-changing” apps, and seminars is they may offer great ideas and good advice, but they can’t give us the _____ to change.

• _____
“Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?” (Romans 7:24)

GOD’S PROMISE

“When you know the truth, the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)

“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Corinthians 3:17)

The secret to personal change and freedom is _____ and His _____.

When we change the way we _____, it changes the way we _____; and when we change the way we feel, it changes the way we _____.

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.” (Romans 12:2)

Behind every self-defeating act is a _____ I’m believing.

Change doesn’t start in our _____, it always starts in our _____ and we have to expose and uncover the lies that we’ve accepted and focus on the truth.

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION: 4 STEPS TO FREEDOM

Step #1: A - _____.

The problem is _____

“So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.” (Rom. 7:17)

Sin starts in the _____ and it is these thoughts that produce sinful behavior.

What makes it worse, is that we can live in a state of _____ about our sinfulness.

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

Principle of Life: Sin always involves _____ the moment I'm sinning, I'm deceiving myself because I think what I'm doing will actually produce better results than what God said.

Fact of Life: To stop defeating myself, I must stop _____ myself. I've got to take an honest look at my life, face the truth, and deal with the issues.

What are you pretending isn't a problem in your life?

What is it in your life that you're saying, "I can stop anytime!"

Step #2: B - _____.

“Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:24-25)

Who is going to be Lord of your life; who is going to be the manager; who is going to call the shots? You or Jesus?

Only Jesus can set us _____—when we're mastered by Him, we can master our _____. Only Jesus can do what we cannot do for _____.

“For the new spiritual principle of life in Jesus Christ lifts me out of the old vicious cycle of sin.” (Romans 8:2)

Step #3: C - _____.

“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” (James 5:16)

Confession is a Biblical principle of _____—a _____ for healing and wholeness.

The church isn't a hotel for _____—it is a hospital for _____.

Confession is important because it brings what's _____ in the darkness out into the light; it _____ it and weakens it's _____ over us.

“But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

Step #4: D - _____.

“Don't let sin control the way you live. Don't give into its lustful desires. Instead give yourselves completely to God since you have been given a new life.” (Romans 6:12)

In order to experience personal change and freedom in our lives, we need a _____ that's greater than _____.

We're all _____ by something. Freedom only comes when we make the right _____ of that will be.

If God isn't number one in our lives, something else is and it will control us to a _____ degree. However, when Jesus is in control, He always moves us in the _____ direction.

COMMITTING TO JESUS

- _____ that I've been trying to play God and I can't change on my own.
- _____ asking God to help.
- Being willing to be _____ with someone else about the things that need changing in my life.
- _____ Jesus total ownership of my life.

“God keeps His promise. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist and at the time you are tempted He will give you the strength to endure it and so provide you with a way out.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)



Do you want to change? Are you willing to take the first step?

“Thanks be to God who give us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 15:57)